Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service

Farm Facts

USDA

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In This Issue:

Farmers Reveal Early Plans for 2002 Crop Year

The 2002 planting season is fast approaching and Tennessee farmers are solidifying their crop acreage plans. The process has been challenging this season as producers search for helpful signs in the commodity markets and gather information about the upcoming farm bill to assist them in determining which crops will suit their operations. According to the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, producers intentions as of March 1 are to devote slightly more acreage to corn and sorghum and less to tobacco, cotton, wheat, and hay. Soybean acreage is expected to remain steady. State Statistician Debra Kenerson added, "Although the results show a proposed acreage decline for most Tennessee crops, this is only a very early snapshot of the 2002 crop year. Weather conditions and economic changes will greatly impact final results for the Volunteer State."

Soybean acreage, at 1.08 million, is expected to remain unchanged from last season. This acreage remains somewhat consistent in Tennessee, increasing only if sharp price changes occur or weather conditions prevent corn or cotton plantings. Some grower comments indicated they would not increase their soybean acreage due to cost of production coupled with marginal price expectations. The 2002 **corn** acreage forecast is 690,000, up 10,000 acres from 2001 and the highest level since 1998. This slight increase is due in part to some growers shifting from cotton to corn. **Sorghum** acreage is also expected to expand to an estimated 35,000 acres, up 17 percent from last year and the highest level since 1994. Some producers are looking to sorghum as an alternative to corn in their crop rotations. Tennessee **cotton** acreage will decline this year due to the outlook for continuing poor prices, the escalating cost of production, and farm bill uncertainty. Planted acreage is forecast at 580,000 acres in 2002, down 6 percent from 2001.

The State's **burley** tobacco to be harvested is 31,000 acres, down 3 percent from the previous year and the lowest since 28,000 acres were harvested in 1927. Quota reductions are the major driving factor for the decrease, but other concerns such as rising labor and lease rate costs will also likely contribute. The other types grown primarily in upper Middle Tennessee will also decline in acreage. **Type 22**, Eastern Dark-Fired acreage is forecast at 5,000 acres, down 22 percent from a year ago and the lowest ever recorded in the state; **Type 23**, Western Dark-Fired is forecast at 400 acres, declining by 120 acres from 2001 and also a new record low; **Type 35**, Dark Air-Cured is forecasted at 500 acres down 150 acres from last year and the lowest since 1997. **Wheat** seedings for the 2002 season totaled 430,000 acres, a 14 percent decline from 2001. Dry conditions throughout October and November slowed seeding progress and contributed to the acreage reduction. Tennessee **hay** acreage harvested is estimated at 2.1 million acres, down 2 percent from 2001. Hay stocks were at a record high level going into the winter and feeding was light due to a warmer than normal winter. Weather throughout the year will play a major role in determining final acres harvested.

Planting Intentions: Tennessee and United States, March 1, 2002, with Comparisons

Crop	2000	2001	Intended 2002 [1]	2002/2001
Tennessee		1,000 Acres		Percent
Corn	650	680	690	101
Sorghum	25	30	35	117
Winter wheat	550	500	430	86
Soybeans	1,180	1,080	1,080	100
Cotton, all	570	620	580	94
Tobacco, all [2]	46.02	39.57	36.90	93
E. Dark-fired (22)	7.70	6.40	5.00	78
W. Dark-fired (23)	0.64	0.52	0.40	77
Burley (31)	37.00	32.00	31.00	97
One-sucker (35)	0.68	0.65	0.50	77
Hay [2]	2,035	2,135	2,100	98
United States				
Corn	79,551	75,752	79,047	104
Sorghum	9,195	10,252	9,015	88
Winter wheat	43,393	41,078	41,076	100
Soybeans	74,266	74,105	72,966	98
Cotton, all	15,347.0	15,527.0	14,496.0	93
Tobacco, all [2]	472.43	432.64	429.41	99
E. Dark-fired (22)	11.80	9.70	7.50	77
W. Dark-fired (23)	4.44	3.62	2.80	77
Burley (31)	185.40	164.50	158.60	96
One-sucker (35)	3.78	3.45	2.70	78
Hay [2]	59,854	63,511	63,743	100

[1] Intended planting for 2002. [2] Acres harvested.

Biotechnology Varieties

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all States each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States are asked what they intend to plant during the upcoming growing season. Questions include whether or not farmers intend to plant corn, soybean, or upland cotton seed that, through biotechnology, is resistant to herbicides, insects, or both. The biotechnology (biotech) questions were asked for the first time in March 2000. Conventionally bred herbicide resistant varieties were excluded. Insect resistant varieties include only those containing bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). Stacked gene varieties include those containing biotech traits for both herbicide and insect resistance.

Biotechnology Varieties By Crop, United States, Percent of All Planted Acres, 2001-2002

Crop	Insect Resistant (Bt)		Herbicide Resistant		Stacked Gene Varieties		All Biotech Varieties	
	2001	*2002*	*2001*	*2002*	*2001*	*2002*	*2001*	*2002*
	Percent		*Percent*		*Percent*		*Percent*	
Corn	18	22	7	8	1	2	26	32
Upland Cotton	13	12	32	36	24	23	69	71
Soybeans			68	74			68	74

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., March 1, 2002 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee [1]			United States		
	Mar 1, 2001	Dec 1, 2001	Mar 1, 2002	Mar 1, 2001	Dec 1, 2001	Mar 1, 2002
	1,000 Bushels					
On-Farm Stocks						
Corn				3,600,000	5,275,000	3,355,000
Wheat				384,750	517,890	338,500
Soybeans				780,000	1,240,000	687,000
Grain Sorghum				40,100	72,400	38,100
Oats				55,800	58,100	39,800
Off-Farm Stocks [2]						
Corn	9,267	17,913	13,525	2,442,999	2,989,715	2,441,473
Wheat	3,930	7,531	3,808	953,648	1,105,565	872,223
Soybeans	2,379	6,308	3,182	623,908	1,035,618	648,976
Grain Sorghum	188	153	87	127,027	241,477	156,151
Oats	154	199	209	54,128	56,117	52,997
Total Stocks						
Corn				6,042,999	8,264,715	5,796,473
Wheat				1,338,398	1,623,455	1,210,723
Soybeans				1,403,908	2,275,618	1,335,976
Grain Sorghum				167,127	313,877	194,251
Oats				109,928	114,217	92,797

[1] Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. [2] Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

Tennessee 2001 Trout Sales Down

The total value of fish sales received by trout growers in Tennessee during 2001 was $293,000, down 31 percent from the previous year and 13 percent below 1999. The number of operations selling trout was 16, unchanged from 2000, and there were 8 operations distributing trout for stocking or resale. The number of trout 12 inches or longer sold during 2001 decreased 52,000 to 98,000 fish, and the average price decreased from $2.84 to $2.59 per pound. Based on the dollar value, 71 percent of the trout 12 inches or longer were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments and 26 percent were sold to restaurants and other direct retailers. Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 35,000 fish during 2001 with over half of those lost to predators.

Trout Sales: Number, Weight, and Value of Sales, 2000-2001

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		2000	2001	2000	2001
12 inches or longer					
Number of head	Thousands	150	98	58,531	54,565
Pounds sold	Thousands	159	113	59,164	56,908
Average value	Dollars per lb.	2.84	2.59	1.08	1.13
Sales	Thousand dollars	452	293	63,675	64,482
Total Sales [1]	Thousand dollars	522	362	75,780	76,310
Number of Operations [2]	Number	16	16	662	642
Selling Trout	Number	9	9	427	409
Distributing Trout	Number	7	8	266	260

[1] Includes sales of fish 6"-12" and fish 1"-6". [2] Number of operations January 1, 2001 and 2002.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., March 2002 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		March 2001	February 2002 [1]	March 2002 [2]	March 2001	February 2002 [1]	March 2002 [3]
		Dollars Per Unit					
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.53	2.94	---	2.85	2.75	2.76
Corn	bu.	2.29	2.18	2.15	1.96	1.93	1.92
Cotton Lint	lb.	.500	.283	.291[3]	.411	.287	2.84[3]
Soybeans	bu.	4.52	4.47	4.55	4.39	4.21	4.39
Tobacco	lbs.	1.845	1.790	1.395	1.720	1.875	1.390
All beef cattle	cwt.	67.00	63.00	63.80	76.00	69.90	71.60
Steers/heifers	cwt.	85.00	79.00	79.00	80.50	73.60	75.30
Cows	cwt.	40.00	39.00	41.00	42.30	40.60	42.40
Calves	cwt.	104.00	95.00	95.00	112.00	105.00	104.00

[1] Entire month. [2] Mid-month. [3] Based on purchases first half of month.

Broiler: Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set 186 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 30, 2002. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier. Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 151 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 30, 2002. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week in 2001. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through March 30, 2002 were 1.94 billion, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. Hog Inventory: U.S. inventory of all **hogs** and pigs on March 1, 2002, was 58.7 million head. This was 2 percent above March 2001, but 1 percent below December 1, 2001. **Breeding** inventory, at 6.24 million head, was up slightly from both March 1, 2001, and last quarter. **Market** hog inventory, at 52.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year but 1 percent below last quarter. The December 2001-February 2002 U.S. **pig crop**, at 24.7 million head, was 3 percent more than 2001, and 1 percent more than 2000. **Sows** farrowing during this period totaled 2.83 million head, 3 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average **pigs per litter** was 8.73 pigs saved per litter for the December 2001- February 2002 period, compared to 8.72 pigs last year. **Pigs saved** per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.80 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs. U.S. hog **producers** intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2002 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2001, and slightly above 2000. **Intended** farrowings for June-August 2002, at 2.90 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2001, and up slightly from 2000. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by **operations** with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 31 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 32 percent last year.